

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
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AMCONSUL DURBAN
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF PINT
SUBJ: MARAIS COMMITTEE RELEASES FOURTEEN PRINCIPLES
 AS BASIS OF NEW PARTY

REF: PRETORIA 4974

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. MARAIS STEERING COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS NOMINATED IN OCTOBER
BY THREE OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS (REFTEL), HAD AS ITS STATED
MANDATE "TO EXAMINE AND TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A
NEW OPPOSITION PARTY WHICH WOULD HAVE AS ITS OBJECTIVE TO
OPPOSE THE NATIONAL PARTY AND TO BECOME AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERN-
MENT". ON DECEMBER 19, IT RELEASED STATEMENT SAYING THAT
SOUTH AFRICA IS IN "CONTINUING CRISIS OF SURVIVAL FOR WHICH
THE GOVERNING PARTY'S POLICY OFFERS NO SOLUTION". IT
CONCLUDED THAT NEW OPPOSITION IS FEASIBLE UNDER FOLLOW-
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ING PRINCIPLES:
 A) GOD IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN THE
 DESTINY OF ALL NATIONS.
 B) ALL SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO FULL CITIZEN-
 SHIP AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS, EITHER IN A FEDERATION OR
 CONFEDERATION, WHICH CAN ONLY BE REALISED IN A COUNTRY WHERE

THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOUR, RELIGION OR SEX.

C) FULL CITIZENSHIP IS THE BASIS FOR LOYALTY TOWARDS THE STATE. ONLY WITH THIS LOYALTY CAN THE STATE EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGE ITS DUTY TO MAINTAIN AN ORDERLY SOCIETY AND THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

D) POLITICAL RIGHTS MUST BE SHARED BY ALL SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS ON AN EQUITABLE AND RESPONSIBLE BASIS, AND ALL SYSTEMS WHICH COULD LEAD TO RACIAL DOMINATION ARE REJECTED.

E) IN A PLURAL SOCIETY LIKE THAT OF THE REPUBLIC, A CONSTITUTION AND AN ENTRENCHED BILL OF RIGHTS GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND MINORITIES ARE ESSENTIAL. THESE MUST BE GUARDED OVER BY A JUDICIARY, APPINTEED BY AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY.

F) ALL CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN THE SYSTEM OF FREE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE, WHICH THE PARTY IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP.

G) THE PARTY STANDS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND REJECTS ALL TOTALITARIAN OR AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEMS, SUCH AS COMMUNISM.

H) EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A DULY DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY OR WAR, EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO THE PROTECTION OF HIS LIFE, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY. IN THE PROTECTION OF THESE RIGHTS, ACCESS TO THE JUDICIARY MUST NOT BE DENIED.

I) THE PARTY GUARANTEES THE RIGHT OF ALL OUR PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR RELIGIOUS, LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL HERITAGES, AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP THESE HERITAGES, PROVIDED THAT THIS DOES NOT ENCROACH ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

J) ALL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS MUST PROVIDE EQUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZENS OF ALL RACES.

K) ALL INEQUITABLE FORMS OF STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOUR, RELIGION OR SEX, ARE UNACCEPTABLE IN THE IDEAL SOCIETY FOR WHICH THE PARTY WILL STRIVE, AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE TESTING RIGHTS OF THE JUDICIARY.

L) THE PARTY ACCEPTS THAT CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS ARE BEING DEVELOPED AS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GROWTH POINTS FOR CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION. WHERE THE INHABITANTS OF SUCHLIKE AREAS FREELY ELECT TO PROCEED WITH SUCH DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS INCREASING SELF-DETERMINATION, THE PARTY WILL RESPECT THEIR WISHES IN TERMS OF ITS BROAD POLICY. NO COMPULSORY REMOVAL OF POPULATIONS WILL, HOWEVER, BE PERMITTED AND THE GENERAL WELFARE WILL BE THOROUGHLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN PARTICULAR, THERE WILL BE NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY PERSON BEING COMPELLED TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF AN AREA OTHER THAN THE ONE IN WHICH HE IS PERMANENTLY RESIDENT.

M) THE PARTY WILL ENDEAVOUR TO HAVE ALL THE ABOVE

PRINCIPLES, AS WELL AS OTHER GUARANTEES, INCORPORATED IN A CONSTITUTION FOR THE REPUBLIC WHICH WILL BE DRAWN UP AFTER JOINT CONSULTATION AND DECISION MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRY.

N) AS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA, THE REPUBLIC ACCEPTS THAT PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH THE STATES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, MUST BE ENCOURAGED WHERE POSSIBLE BY WAY OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS."

2. THE SECOND PART OF STATEMENT, IN AFRIKAANS, SETS FORTH CERTAIN BROAD PARAMETERS FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING SPECIFIC REJECTION OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION. IT CLOSES BY ADDING THAT NEW PARTY WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE ROLE TO PLAY IN APPLYING NON-DISCRIMINATORY ECONOMIC POLICIES, REPEALING STATUTORY DISCRIMINATION AND CREATING EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT: AS THE 14 PRINCIPLES ARE MODELED LARGELY ALONG THE LINES OF THE PRP PLATFORM, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT INITIAL REACTION TO MARAIS COMMITTEE STATEMENT HAS NOT BEEN UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE. PRP LEADER COLIN EGLIN AND DP LEADER THEO GERDENER IMMEDIATELY WELCOMED STATEMENT AS "ACCEPTABLE BASIS" FOR NEW PARTY. UP LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, HOWEVER, WHILE ALSO SAYING HE CONSIDERED RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTABLE, ADDED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CONCEPTS BASED ON "GROUP IDENTITIES" AND "SPECIAL NATURE" OF URBAN BLACK, COLORED AND INDIAN PROBLEMS. MARAIS COMMITTEE RECORDING SECRETARY PETER SOAL TOLD EMBASSY THAT THESE CONCEPTS WERE INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL PAPER GRAAFF HAD PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE WHEN IT BEGAN ITS STUDY AND THAT THEY WERE REJECTED BY COMMITTEE. GRAAFF, HE SAID, IS BEING "NAUGHTY" BUT WILL BE BROUGHT INTO LINE. PRESS SPECULATES WITH GOOD REASON THAT GRAAFF IS STILL RESPONDING TO CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN UP TO PREVENT FURTHER DIVISION IN PARTY (PRETORIA 5713). UP LEADERSHIP WILL BE MEETING OVER NEXT TWO WEEKS TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS, AS WILL PRP AND MARAIS COMMITTEE. SOAL FEELS THAT FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY WILL BE TARGET FOR ARRIVING AT CONSENSUS ON PROPOSALS. BOWDLER

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